(c) what are the details of products where purchase invoices of pharmaceutical aids have been verified ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Various parameters adopted by the DPRC Sub-Committee, with the approval of the Government, for fixation/revision of prices of medicines have been developed on the basis of either recommendations of Expert Committee appointed for the purpose or studies conducted by BICP in this regard from time to time. These parameters are neither fictitious nor arbirtrary. Increase in prices of medicines are due to overall inflationary conditions and due to changes in the exchange rate of rupee *vis-a-vis* foreign currencies.

(b) There are more than 125 ceiling packs of formulations where the prices have been revised after January, 1992. The prices of ceiling packs of formulations are notified in the Extra Ordinary Gazette, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(c) Purchase invoices run into several thousands. The time and labour involved in collecting the requisite details will not be commensurate with the results likely to be achieved. For pharmaceutical aids, ceiling rates are fixed based on data collected from the claims of different formulators over a period which are also checked with reference to the price lists of such aids independently collected from the suppliers to the extent feasible. The data so collected are then averaged after leaving out freakishly high and freakishly low rates and then adopted uniformly until such ceiling rates are revised.

Piling up of malasses in Tamil Nadu

2265. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether molasses is piling up in Tamil Nadu and seriously affecting sugar mills; and

(b) whether Government would ensure conversion of molasses for power alcohol and use in petrol as was done during World War-II and ensure value-added returns to farmers and also reduce forex outgo and decrease in vehicular pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Tamil Nadu is traditionally surplus in molasses. During the current alcohol year, inter-state allocations of molasses from Tamil Nadu to various deficit States to cover the requirements from December 1991 to September 1992 have been made. In addition export of 30,000 tonnes of molasses from Tamil Nadu has been authorised thus far.

(b) The use of alcohol as auto-motive fuel could be considered only after adequate availability of alcohol for this purpose on a sustained basis, and techno-economic viability of such usage are established.

H-Acid units in the country

2266. SHRI PRABHAKAR B. KORE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are over 40 H-Acid units in the country, including two set up in Barodara after closing down in Bichhri and if so, the details of all the plants in the country indicating their installed capacity and actual production during the last three years;

(b) what is the export of each of these plants indicating the value thereof;

(c) the quantum of the H-Acid produced and used in the country and for what purpose;

(d) whether all the units making H-Acid have been inspected to ensure that these are not polluting water or environment as in the case of Bichhri plants now transferred in Barodara; and

(e) whether H-Acid is produced in the west and the names of countries where its production is banned or phased out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA